SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ARGYLL DISTRICT ASYLUM

FOR THE INSANE.

1869.

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REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD

TO THE

COMMISSIONERS OF SUPPLY

FOR THE COUNTY OF ARGYLL.

THE District Board is glad to be able to state that the negotiations with the County of Bute, referred to in the last Annual Report, have been brought to a satisfactory termination. The general import of the agreement is that Bute, in consideration of the buildings being enlarged so as to provide adequate accommodation for 250 patients, of which it shall have right to 50 beds, has agreed to pay one-fifth of the total outlay for the original buildings, furnishings, &c., as well as the additions thereto which are now in progress, and the same proportion of the future annual charge which falls to be assessed on Counties.

In consequence of difficulty having been experienced in procuring a proper supply of butcher meat and milk for the Asylum, it was deemed expedient to rent some land adjoining, consisting of about 42½ acres arable ground and 77 acres hill pasture, at an annual rent of £83 5s. 8d. From this amount, however, a deduction of £3 11s. 6d. may fall to be made, as there is a reference regarding the rent of one of the fields to that extent.

The Board has much satisfaction in intimating that the charge to Parishes for the ensuing year will be reduced from nine

shillings and eightpence to nine shillings a week for each patient, which reduced rate it is hoped will be permanent.

It is recommended that, for next year, an assessment yielding £2000 should be made, apportioned on the County and Burghs.

The Board refers the County for further particulars to the Medical Superintendent's Report, and to the entries made by Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy on the occasions of their inspection of the Asylum.

COLIN G. CAMPBELL.
JOHN RAMSAY.
DUNCAN CAMPBELL.
JOHN BEITH, Junr.

April, 1869.

ABSTRACT OF THE ACCOUNTS

OF THE

ARGYLL DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD,

For the Year ending 15th March, 1869.

I.—MAINTENANCE EXPENSES AND SALARIES.

CHARGE.

Balance in favour of Maintenance, 15th March, 1868, ...	£700	15	8			
Board of Patients for Year, ...	3,409	5	9			
Arrears of Board Unpaid at 15th March, 1868,	129	3	3			
Interest on Arrears of Board and Bank Account, ...	8	18	0			
Advances Repaid, ...	17	12	9			
Advances for former Years Repaid, ...	7	18	0			
Received for Sundries, ...	1	3	10			
Sales of Farm Produce, ...	24	17	0			
Farm Produce supplied to Asylum, ...	473	0	8			
Labour Charged on Farm Account against Erecting, Fitting Up, &c., ...	5	10	0			
				£4,778	4	11

DISCHARGE.

Provisions—						
Butcher Meat, ...	£343	19	2½			
Fish, ...	36	3	5			
Flour and Oatmeal, ...	165	4	0			
Barley and Rice, ...	60	8	4			
Tea, Coffee, &c., ...	45	19	2½			
Sugar and Treacle, ...	56	19	7			
Cheese, Eggs, &c., ...	5	10	4			
Butter, ...	78	10	9			
Sundry Groceries, ...	10	17	2			
Potatoes and other Vegetables, ...	213	7	0			
Bread, ...	300	12	11			
Milk, ...	218	17	1			
				1,536	9	0
Medicines, &c.—						
Medicine, ...	£13	19	10			
Malt and Spirituous Liquors, ...	48	11	6			
Tobacco and Snuff, ...	23	11	4			
				86	2	8
House and Other Expenses—						
Fuel, ...	£138	2	2			
Light, ...	91	0	3			
Soap, Soda, &c., ...	46	3	8½			
Earthenware and Glass, ...	2	17	3			
Stationery, Printing, Postages, &c , ...	34	0	5			
Books and Amusements, ...	20	1	3½			
Freight and Cartage, ...	36	19	11			
Incidental Expenses, ...	7	10	10			
General Furnishings, ...	142	1	0½			
Re-taking Patients,...	14	12	6			
				533	9	4½
Clothing, ...	...		...	261	14	0
Salaries and Wages, ...	...		...	866	18	5
Advances for Funeral Expenses, &c., ...	...		...	21	13	3
Arrears of Board Unpaid, ...	...		...	85	18	2
Drawbacks for Board, ...	...		...	14	2	0
Outlay on Farm and Garden, ...	...		...	390	19	6
Balance in favour of Maintenance, ...	...		...	980	18	6½
				£4,778	4	11

II.—ERECTING, FITTING UP, &c.

CHARGE.

Assessment imposed on Landward Part of County and Burghs, ...	£2,000	0	0			
Arrears of Assessment unpaid at 15th March, 1868,	42	9	3			
				£2,042	9	3

DISCHARGE.

Balance against Erecting, &c., 15th March, 1868, ...	£276	13	8½			
Repairs of Building, ...	68	17	9			
Advances on Account of New Building, ...	45	14	10½			
Feu-duty and Taxes, ...	219	8	6			
Instalment on Loans, ...	533	6	8			
Interest on Loans, ...	578	13	7			
Balance in favour of Erecting, &c., ...	319	14	2			
				£2,042	9	3

III.—LOANS FROM SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Balance at 15th March, 1868, ...	£13,166	13	4
Instalment Paid 11th November, 1868, ...	533	6	8
	£12,633	6	8

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

Balance in favour of Maintenance, 15th March, 1869,	£980	18	6½			
Balance in favour of Erecting, &c., 15th March, 1869,	319	14	2			
				£1,300	12	8½
Balance at Credit in Union Bank of Scotland, 15th March, 1869,				£1,300	12	8½

NOTE.

Amount received from the District Lunacy Board of Bute to Account of their Proportion of Building and Furnishing present Asylum and the Addition now being made thereto,	£6,000	0	0
Expenditure on New Building up to 15th March, 1869, ...	4,096	15	11
Balance at Credit of Building Account in Union Bank of Scotland, 15th March, 1869, ...	£1,903	4	1

COST OF MAINTENANCE OF EACH PATIENT PER WEEK.

	s.	*d.*
Provisions, ...	4	3⅝
Medicines, &c., ...	0	2⅞
House Expenses, ...	1	6
Clothing, ...	0	8⅝
Salaries and Wages, ...	2	5⅜
	9	2⅝
Deduct Profit on Farm, ...	0	3⅝
	8	11

ARCHIBALD MACEWAN,

Clerk to the District Lunacy Board of Argyllshire.

FARM AND GARDEN ACCOUNT.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM 15TH MARCH, 1868, TO 15TH MARCH, 1869.

RECEIPTS.

To Sale of—		
2 Cows, ...	£19 0 0	
4 Calves, ...	3 1 0	
Eggs, &c., ...	2 16 0	
		£24 17 0
To Charge against Maintenance Account—		
Potatoes and other Vegetables, ...	£124 16 0	
Flour and Oatmeal, ...	16 0 0	
Meat, ...	68 19 7	
Milk, ...	218 17 1	
Butter, ...	13 4 2	
Eggs, ...	5 10 4	
Fuel, ...	5 11 0	
Freight and Cartage, ...	1 7 6	
Re-taking Patients, ...	3 15 0	
Salaries and Wages—Keep of Medical Superintendent's Pony, ...	15 0 0	
		£473 0 8
To Charge against Erecting, Fitting up, &c.—		
Advance for Carting in connection with New Building, ...		5 10 0
Increase in Value of Stock, ...		45 13 4
		£549 1 0

PAYMENTS.

By Paid for—		
2 Horses, ...	£36 0 0	
4 Cows, ...	34 5 0	
Seeds and Plants, ...	9 11 0	
Implements, Harness, &c., ...	14 16 5	
Fencing, ...	11 3 0	
Hay, Corn, Turnips and Sundries, ...	180 16 10	
Manure, ...	29 9 6	
Drainage, &c., ...	49 17 9	
		£365 19 6
By 25 Wedders transferred from Meat Account, ...		25 0 0
,, Balance, ...		158 1 6
		£549 1 0

VALUE OF STOCK ON FARM.

15TH MARCH, 1868.

8 Milk Cows, at £12 10/ each, ...	£100	0	0	
2 Two-year old Ayrshire Queys, at £9, ...	18	0	0	
1 Six-quarter Ayrshire Quey, ...	5	0	0	
2 Quey Stirks, at £3 10/, ...	7	0	0	
700 Stones Hay, at 1/2, ...	40	16	8	
4 Boll Oats, at 21/, ...	4	4	0	
10 Tons Turnips, at 20/, ...	10	0	0	
	185	0	8	
Increase in Value of Stock, ...	45	13	4	
				£230 14 0

15TH MARCH, 1869.

8 Milk Cows, at £11 each, ...	£88	0	0	
2 Six-quarter old Queys, at £5, ...	10	0	0	
1 Two-year old Quey, ...	8	0	0	
1 Quey Stirk, ...	3	10	0	
2 Horses, ...	35	0	0	
1 Foal, ...	7	0	0	
700 Stones Hay, at 1/, ...	35	0	0	
12 Tons Turnips, at 17/, ...	10	4	0	
9 Bolls Oats, at 20/, ...	9	0	0	
25 Wedders, ...	25	0	0	
				£230 14 0

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,

FOR THE YEAR 1868,

PRESENTED TO THE ARGYLL DISTRICT BOARD OF LUNACY.

The Medical Superintendent has the honour of submitting to the Board his Report for the past year.

General results.

The number of patients on the Asylum Register on 1st January, 1868, was 62 males and 81 females; but of these 6 females were boarded out on probation. There were admitted during the year 19 males and 17 females, making in all 3 less than were admitted during the previous year.

Twenty patients left the Asylum. Of these 9 had recovered, 11 had considerably improved, and 1 was discharged not improved. Twelve male patients and 8 females died.

The number of patients on the Register at the end of the year was 138, which included 1 female absent on trial. The number actually resident was thus exactly equal to what were in the Asylum at the end of the previous year. The average number of daily residents was 135, or 15 above the number for which the Asylum was erected.

Overcrowding.

The evils produced by overcrowding have been experienced in a very special manner during the past year. Not only has the number of patients continued considerably larger than there was suitable accommodation for in the original building, but that accommodation was seriously encroached upon by the requirements of the contractors engaged in erecting the additional buildings. Considerable relief was obtained about the beginning of the present

year by the occupation of two rooms which had been enlarged; but even yet the accommodation is less than it was before the new building was commenced.

New buildings.

Two additional wings, one for males and one for females are, however, rapidly approaching completion; and it is hoped that they will both be occupied by the beginning of summer. But when this takes place a large portion of the main building will be handed over to the contractors to permit of other proposed alterations being carried out, and the available accommodation will thus for some time to come be only slightly in excess of what is at present in use.

Difficulties occasioned by building operations.

Until all the alterations are completed, there must necessarily be great difficulty in the ordinary administration of the establishment; and such difficulty has been severely felt during the past year. The distribution of patients in the grounds for either work or exercise has been very much interfered with. Much confusion has been occasioned inside the house by the necessary interferences of one department with another, as, for instance, since the portion of pleasure ground at present temporarily used as a laundry green has been applied to that purpose, it has been necessary that the constant communication between it and the laundry should take place through one of the ordinary divisions for females. To any one acquainted with Asylum administration it will be evident how such disturbing elements interfere with discipline, and render satisfactory supervision impossible. There is reason to believe that the worst of such difficulties have now been experienced, and that with the progress of the buildings they will one by one disappear. And it is satisfactory to know that when the whole plans have been carried out, the management will be easier and much more satisfactory than it has ever been.

Statistical Tables.

The conclusions which may be drawn from the statistical tables appended to this Report are, in some points, less favourable than from those of previous years. The number of recoveries has been less, while that of the deaths has been considerably greater. One might be apt to attribute both of these untoward results to the less efficient management produced by the alterations in the building; but it does not seem probable that this inference would be correct.

In a field so comparatively small as forms the basis of these statistics, very trifling accidental causes will produce great differences in the proportions of the different numbers. The falling off in the number of recoveries is only two below last year, and one below the year before, and may therefore be considered insignificant. But the number of deaths is double what they have been during any previous year, and more than double what they were last year. It is worthy of remark, however, that the average death rate since the opening of the Asylum is not above the average in similar institutions. A reference to the table showing the causes of death during last year, will show also that the nature of the diseases to which the fatal results were due were almost all of such a nature as no treatment could remove, or in ordinary circumstances do much to palliate. One-half of the cases were in persons of more than fifty years of age.

Accidental death.

There was one case which, though it cannot notably raise the per centage of deaths, occurred under unfortunate circumstances, and is therefore worthy of special remark. One of the attendants being on duty for the night had under his charge a patient who had been kept up during the fore part of the night, in the hope that he might thereby have more tendency to sleep during the latter part. About one o'clock, the attendant went according to order to visit a patient labouring under mania who had been placed in a single room, and whom it was desired to induce to remain in bed as much as possible. The attendant was accompanied in his visit by the patient who had been sitting up with him. The occupant of the single room was out of bed as had been expected, and the attendant tried to persuade him to lie down and rest. In return for his endeavours he was fiercely attacked, and the other patient seeing the attendant as he believed in danger of serious injury, rushed into the room and kicked the assailant in the side. The attendant rapidly relieved himself from the patient who had attacked him, and left him without suspecting the nature of the blow which had been given. Next morning, however, the man who had been kicked complained of pain in the side, which on examination was found to result from fracture of one or more ribs. The restlessness of the patient made it difficult

to give him all the ease that would have been desirable, though he was carefully attended to from the time that his state was known. Unfortunately, inflammation of the lung set in, and rapidly proved fatal. The case was duly reported to the General Board of Lunacy, and to the Procurator-Fiscal.

Expense of maintenance.

In the abstract of accounts it will be seen that, in spite of many disadvantages, the management of the establishment has been somewhat more economical than in any previous year, and the Board will probably be justified in reducing the rate charged to the parishes. A considerable saving has been effected during the last half-year by the butcher meat having been provided for the house, either directly from the farm, or by purchases made without the intervention of a trade profit. It is only fair to those more immediately connected with the industrial details of the establishment, both within the building and in the farm, to state that the apparent profit derived from their management has been diminished by the inconveniences occasioned by the additional building. In the farm especially, the breaking down of fences and the cutting up of the ground with quarry roads, and other minor injuries, have occasioned considerable loss to the farm account.

The occupations and amusements have been carried on, as far as possible, in their usual manner; and our thanks are again due to those who have assisted us in either.

The Medical Superintendent has again to thank the District Board for the uniform kindness of all the members to himself. And he also takes this opportunity of thanking those associated with him in the service of the institution, for the manner in which they have performed their duties, frequently in circumstances of more than ordinary difficulty.

JOHN SIBBALD, M.D.,
Medical Superintendent.

April, 1869.

TABLE I.

Showing the Admissions, Re-Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the Year, 1868.

	M.	F.	T.	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Asylum, 1st January, 1868, (inclusive of absent on trial, 6 females,) - - - - - -				62	81	143
Admitted for the first time during the year, -	17	16	33			
Re-admitted during the year, - - - - - - -	2	1	3			
Total admitted, - - - - - - -				19	17	36
Total under care during the year, -				81	98	179
Discharged or Removed:	M.	F.	T.			
Recovered, - - - - -	3	6	9			
Relieved, - - - - -	4	7	11			
Not improved, - - -	0	1	1			
Died, - - - - - - -	12	8	20			
Total discharged and died during the year, - - - - - - -				19	22	41
Remaining in Asylum, 31st Dec., 1868, (inclusive of absent on trial, 1 female,)				62	76	138
Average number resident during the year, - - - - - - - - - - -				61·5	73·5	135

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS, RE-ADMISSIONS, AND DISCHARGES, FROM THE OPENING OF THE ASYLUM TO THE PRESENT DATE, 31ST DECEMBER, 1868.

				Males.	Females	Total.
Persons admitted during the period of $5\frac{1}{2}$ years, - - - - -				135	126	261
Re-admissions, - - - -				5	5	10
Total of cases admitted - -				140	131	271
Discharged or removed:	M.	F.	T.			
Recovered, - -	24	22	46			
Relieved, - - -	17	12	29			
Not Improved, - -	1	5	6			
Died, - - -	36	16	52			
Total discharged and died during the $5\frac{1}{2}$ years, - - -				78	55	133
Remaining 31st December, 1868, -				62	76	138
Average number resident during the $5\frac{1}{2}$ years, - - - - -				54	60	114

TABLE III.—Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths; with the Mean Annual Mortality and Proportion of Recoveries per cent. of the Admissions, for each year since the opening of the Asylum.

Year.	Admitted.			Discharged. Recovered			Discharged. Relieved.			Discharged. Unimproved.			Died.			Remaining 31st Dec. of each year.			Average Numbers Resident.			Percentage of Recoveries on Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Aver'ge Numbers Resident.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Mean.	Males.	Females.	Mean.
From the Opening of the Asylum, 9th June, to 31st Dec., 1863.....	53	42	95	1	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	48	40	88	40	33	73	2	5	3	10	0	5
1864,.....	20	23	43	2	3	5	1	3	4	0	1	1	5	1	6	60	55	115	52	47	99	10	13	12	9	3	6
1865, ...	14	13	27	6	2	8	1	0	1	0	1	1	6	4	10	61	61	122	56	56	112	43	15	29	10	8	9
1866, ...	17	14	31	5	5	10	7	1	8	1	2	3	3	2	5	62	65	127	55	63	118	29	36	32	5	3	4
1867, ...	17	22	39	7	4	11	2	1	3	0	0	0	8	1	9	62	81	143	61	68	129	41	18	28	13	1	7
1868, ...	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	7	11	0	1	1	12	8	20	62	76	138	61	74	135	16	35	25	19	11	15
Totals and Averages for the 5½ years, ...	140	131	271	24	22	46	17	12	29	1	5	6	36	16	52	59	63	122	54	60	114	17	17	17	11	4	8

TABLE IV.—Showing the History of the Annual Admissions since the opening of the Asylum, with the Discharges and Deaths, and the Numbers of each Year remaining on the 31st December, 1868.

Year.	Admitted.									Of each Year's Admissions, Discharged and Died in 1868.												Total Discharged and Died of each Year's Admissions, to 31st Dec., 1868.												Remaining of each Year's Admissions, 31st Dec., 1868.		
	New Cases.		Re-lapsed Cases.		Con-genital Cases.		Transfers from other Asylums.		Total.	Recovered			Relieved.			Unim-proved.			Died.			Recovered			Relieved.			Unim-proved.			Died.					
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.	Males	Females	Total.
1863	8	6	3	1	0	2	42	33	95	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	5	3	8	5	5	10	8	5	13	0	2	2	18	7	25	22	23	45
1864	10	9	3	5	0	0	7	9	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	2	7	2	1	3	0	0	0	5	4	9	8	16	24
1865	10	7	1	3	0	0	3	3	27	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	6	3	9	0	1	1	0	1	1	4	1	5	4	7	11
1866	14	11	1	0	0	0	2	3	31	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	4	5	1	1	2	3	2	5	9	5	14
1867	12	14	4	6	0	1	1	1	39	3	6	9	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	5	10	15	4	1	5	0	0	0	3	0	3	5	11	16
1868	10	8	2	3	3	3	4	3	36	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	3	2	5	14	14	28
	64	55	14	18	3	6	59	52	271	3	6	9	4	7	11	0	1	1	12	8	20	24	22	46	17	12	29	1	5	6	36	16	52	62	76	138

SUMMARY OF TOTAL ADMISSIONS, 1863–68.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Percentage of Cases Recovered,	17·2	16·8	17·
" " Relieved,	12·1	9·2	10·7
" " Unimproved,	·7	3·8	2·3
" " Dead,	25·7	12·2	19·1
" " Remaining,	44·3	58·	50·9
	100	100	100

TABLE V.

Showing the Causes of Death during the Year.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cerebral or Spinal Disease:			
Apoplexy, - - - - - - - - - -	1	0	1
Cerebral Softening, - - - - - -	1	0	1
General Paralysis, - - - - - - -	0	1	1
Maniacal Exhaustion, - - - - - -	1	0	1
Epilepsy, - - - - - - - - - -	2	0	2
Thoracic Disease:			
Cardiac Hypertrophy, - - - - -	1	0	1
Mitral Obstruction, - - - - - -	0	1	1
Calcification of Aorta, - - - - -	0	1	1
Traumatic Pneumonia, - - - - -	1	0	1
Pulmonary Consumption, - - - -	5	4	9
Abdominal Disease:			
Renal Disease, - - - - - - - -	0	1	1
Total, - - - - - - -	12	8	20

TABLE VI.

Showing the Length of Residence in those Discharged Recovered, and in those who have Died during the Year.

Length of Residence.	Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month, - -	0	0	0	1	1	2
From 1 to 3 months, -	0	3	3	2	0	2
" 3 " 6 " -	0	1	1	0	0	0
" 6 " 9 " -	2	1	3	1	1	2
" 9 " 12 " -	1	0	1	1	0	1
" 1 " 2 years, -	0	1	1	1	1	2
" 3 " 4 " -	0	0	0	1	2	3
" 4 " 5 " -	0	0	0	2	2	4
" 5 " 6 " -	0	0	0	3	1	4
Total, - -	3	6	9	12	8	20

TABLE VII.—Showing the Duration of the Disorder on Admission, in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the year.

Classes.	Duration of Disease on Admission, in Four Classes.											
	On Admission.			Recovered.			Removed Not Recovered.			Died.		
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
First Class: First attack, and within three months on admission, - -	4	4	8	2	3	5	2	1	3	3	2	5
Second Class: First attack, above three and within twelve months on admission, - - - - -	5	4	9	0	2	2	0	3	3	2	2	4
Third Class: Not first attack, and within twelve months on admission,	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1
Fourth Class: First attack or not, but of more than twelve months on admission, - - - -	8	6	14	0	0	0	1	3	4	6	4	10
Total, - - - - -	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	8	12	12	8	20

TABLE VIII.—Showing the Ages of the Admissions, Discharges and Deaths during the Year.

Ages.	The Admissions.			The Discharges.						The Deaths.		
				Recovered.			Removed not Recovered.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
From 15 to 20 years, - - -	5	1	6	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	1
" 20 " 30 " - - -	7	1	8	1	1	2	2	0	2	3	1	4
" 30 " 40 " - - -	3	8	11	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	1	3
" 40 " 50 " - - -	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
" 50 " 60 " - - -	2	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	4
" 60 " 70 " - - -	1	3	4	1	0	1	0	3	3	1	1	2
" 70 " 80 " - - -	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
" 80 " 90 " - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total, - - - - - -	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	8	12	12	8	20

TABLE IX.—Condition as to Marriage in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths during the year.

Condition in reference to Marriage.	The Admissions.			The Discharges.						The Deaths.		
				Recovered.			Removed, Relieved, or otherwise.					
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Single, - - - - - - - - - -	16	12	28	1	4	5	4	3	7	7	7	14
Married, - - - - - - - - -	3	5	8	2	2	4	0	3	3	5	1	6
Widowed, - - - - - - - - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Total, - - - - - -	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	8	12	12	8	20

TABLE X.—Showing the probable Causes, apparent or assigned, of the Disorder, in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of the Year.

Causes.	The Admissions.			The Discharges.						The Deaths.		
				Recovered.			Removed, relieved, or otherwise.					
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Moral:—												
Disappointed affection,	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disappointment in business,	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Death of near relatives,	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Religious excitement,	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical:—												
Destitution,	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intemperance,	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Profligacy,	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exposure,	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sunstroke,	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epilepsy,	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Structural disease of brain,	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tumour of cerebellum,	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Paralysis,	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Rheumatism,	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parturition,	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Suppression of catamenia,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Change of life,	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital,	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1
Unascertained,	9	6	15	2	1	3	1	4	5	8	5	13
Total,	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	8	12	12	8	20

TABLE XI.—Showing the Number of Cases in which Hereditary tendency to Insanity was ascertained to exist, or in which attacks of Insanity had previously occurred, in the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths of the Year.

	The Admissions.			The Discharges.						The Deaths.		
				Recovered.			Not Recovered.					
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Hereditary Tendency:—												
Existing,	4	5	9	2	0	2	1	2	3	2	2	4
Not existing,	6	6	12	0	2	2	2	1	3	0	1	1
Unascertained,	9	6	15	1	4	5	1	5	6	10	5	15
Relation to previous history of Individual:—												
First attack,	13	13	26	2	5	7	3	7	10	8	6	14
Not first attack,	6	4	10	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	5
Unascertained,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total,	19	17	36	3	6	9	4	8	12	12	8	20

ENTRIES

BY THE

COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

ARGYLL DISTRICT ASYLUM,
May 21, 1868.

THE patients at this date are 60 males and 75 females resident in the Asylum, and 2 females absent on probation. As stated in former Reports, it has been found necessary, in order to meet the demand for accommodation, to overcrowd some of the dormitories, and to place beds in the lavatories. This method of meeting the wants of the district, however, is not satisfactory, and is not capable of much further extension. It has therefore been determined by the District Board to enlarge the Asylum, and at the same time to provide accommodation for the district of Bute, with which a union has been effected. This arrangement will be for the advantage of both districts, and will conduce to economy by rendering the services of the Staff of wider avail. It will likewise facilitate the appointment of an Assistant Physician, as recommended in last Report; and it is very advisable that this recommendation should receive immediate attention, as from the disturbing influence of the alterations on the patients at first, and ultimately from the increase in their numbers, it will be impossible for the Medical Superintendent to discharge his duties satisfactorily, and to maintain the establishment in its present efficient condition without assistance.

The changes since the visit of 12th December are 15 admissions, 12 discharges and 10 deaths. Of the patients discharged, 6 were recovered. Of the deaths, 5 were caused by consumption, and the others by various affections. The mortality is high; but this is to be ascribed more to the equalization of a previously low mortality than to any exceptional prevalence of morbific influences. Attention is, however, arrested by the number of deaths caused by consumption, both on this occasion and at former visits; and although it is probable that, in many of the cases, the seeds of the malady were sown previous to admission, an indication is afforded that every possible endeavour should be made to avoid overcrowding, and to secure efficient ventilation.

The house was in excellent order, and the bedding throughout in a satisfactory condition. Articles of decoration and interest are being steadily multiplied, and the general aspect of the accommodation was one of cheerfulness and comfort. The patients were well clothed, and were clean in person and dress. The sanitary condition is at present tolerably satisfactory; no male was in bed, but in the female infirmary 3 patients were in bed from sickness or debility.

Both sexes were free from excitement, but one or two patients in the male department were rather noisy from having been confined all day to the house through the inclemency of the weather. There are no covered sheds in which exercise can be taken in rainy weather, and in Argyllshire such a want means frequent confinement. It is therefore very desirable that, when the house is being enlarged, provision should be made for exercise in all weathers. Nevertheless, there has been very little necessity for seclusion—only three entries occurring in the register since last inspection for periods of 3, 12 and 2 hours.

The numbers industrially employed are about 30 men and 40 women. Hitherto, and for a considerable period to come, abundant means of occupation have been, and will be afforded by the grounds; but experience has shown that under efficient management, farming may be extensively and profitably carried on by Asylum patients, and it is therefore worthy of consideration whether, in the event of any farm in the neighbourhood of the

Asylum coming into the market, it would be advisable to take it on lease.

Extended exercise is regularly taken, and few patients are restricted to the airing courts. By-and-by, when the walks in process of formation are completed, and the grounds in front of the Asylum are enclosed by wire fences, it is expected that the walled airing courts will scarcely be required.

Recreation meets with due consideration, and on three nights of the week there are special entertainments, namely, readings, dancing, and singing classes. The numbers attending divine service are on an average about 35 males and 50 females.

There has been one accident, not of a serious character, since last inspection, and three changes among the attendants.

The Asylum is about to enter on a state of transition, which for some time will probably injuriously affect its working; but there is every reason to think that when the changes are completed, the result will be highly satisfactory.

JAMES COXE,
Commissioner in Lunacy.

ARGYLL DISTRICT ASYLUM,
December 23, 1868.

There are at this date 136 patients in the Asylum, besides two females out on probation. The numbers in the house thus exceed the proper complement by 16, 14 of whom are on the female side. Notwithstanding this excess in the numbers, and the interference with the ordinary accommodation for the patients, rendered necessary by the building operations now in progress for the extension of the Asylum, it was pleasing to find how little the general good order and discipline of the establishment, and the comfort of its inmates, have been interfered with. By placing additional beds in some of the dormitories and lavatories accom-

modation has been found for the extra cases, and everything continues to be done that experience and careful forethought can devise to cause the inconveniences of overcrowding to be as little felt as possible. In view of this condition of matters it is satisfactory to be able to state that the new buildings are making steady progress, and that it is expected the newly erected portion of the male wing may be ready for occupation in the course of a few weeks.

I found on my arrival 102 patients at dinner in the hall, the meal consisting of soup, excellent haggis, boiled mutton and pudding; and next morning I had the opportunity of being present at daily prayers, when 104 patients attended, a considerable proportion of whom appeared to join heartily, and with propriety, in the various exercises. The general absence of noise and excitement on both of these occasions, and especially the latter, called for special notice.

Only 3 patients, all upon the female side of the house, were entirely, and 2 others partially, confined to bed in the daytime from sickness or debility. The number belonging to the class of wet patients is also very small, consisting only of 3 males and 1 female.

About 30 males and 45 females are industrially employed, the former principally in the garden or grounds of the Asylum, and the latter divided in nearly equal proportions between kitchen, laundry or household work, and spinning and sewing. Two men are employed carting beyond the grounds.

None are restricted in respect of exercise to the walled airing yards—which in point of fact are very little used—it being found practicable to lay open to the majority of the inmates the general grounds of the Asylum for employment and exercise, either with the accompaniment of an attendant or on parole. There have only been three instances of escape since the last entry in this book, in all of which the patients were recaptured and brought back to the Asylum after a short absence. The recommendation in regard to covered sheds for exercise in wet weather is to receive attention, and certainly appears to be of special importance in such a climate as that of Argyll.

The number of patients joining in the amusements is about

70. Three nights in the week are statedly set apart for readings, singing, lessons and dancing, besides occasional extra nights. About 100 attend chapel on Sundays.

The patients were clean in dress and person. The deficiency of water for supplying the baths is still such as to render it necessary to use the same bath for a greater number of patients than is desirable; but arrangements are being made for an additional supply of water, by which it is contemplated that a separate bath may be given to as many as 30 patients in the course of an hour and a-half.

Two instances only have occurred since last entry of seclusion or restraint; one of them, however, being no more than the wearing of worsted gloves, without fingers, to prevent the patient from irritating a sore. The other was a case of seclusion for 8 hours on account of striking another patient. There has been one accident, fracture of the fibula, in a female engaged in the washing-house from an accidental fall.

The changes in the institution since the last statutory visit consist of 20 admissions, 7 discharges, and 9 deaths. The admissions include 9 males and 11 females all belonging to the district. Of these 8 are reported to have been in a weak state of bodily health at the time of admission. Three of the admissions are cases of transfer from other Asylums, and the rest are Sheriffs' warrants. The nature of the mental affection is stated to have been in 2 melancholia, 5 mania, 1 periodical mania, 3 delusional insanity, 3 imbecility, 4 dementia, and 2 general paralysis. Of the patients discharged there were—recovered 3, relieved 3, not improved 1 (who was subsequently re-admitted). The causes of death are stated to have been—disease of aorta 1, phthisis 3, renal and cardiac dropsies 2, epilepsy 1, acute mania 1, general paralysis 1. The ages at death range from 18 to 80, the mean age at death being 41.

Three new attendants have been appointed to supply the places of three who have left. Of these last one only was discharged for impropriety of conduct.

One Assistant Resident Physician has now been appointed to the Asylum, who has commenced his duties. This appointment, it is

to be expected, will be of the greatest advantage in relieving the Medical Superintendent of the undivided and constant weight of responsibility that has devolved upon him since the opening of the Asylum, and had, in point of fact, become absolutely indispensable in view of the extension of the establishment now in progress.

G. PATERSON,

Deputy-Commissioner in Lunacy.